

WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR SOUTHEAST WISCONSIN COUNTIES MAY 2003



April Rates are Down in the Southeast

The **Racine MSA's** unemployment rate dropped seven-tenths of a percent point to 8.1 percent in April. The dip in the monthly rate, as dramatic as it is, is seasonally expected in April. The rate is still fairly high in a historical context and is the highest rate for the month of April since 1986 (8.6 percent). The average March to April change in unemployment rate shows a decrease of four-tenths of a point. Annually, April's rate is four-tenths of a point higher than last April. All data referenced are not seasonally adjusted.

Racine's industry performance shows, arguably, the strongest growth of the three southeast counties, both monthly and annually. This statement may not be so strong given the soft economy, but is encouraging nonetheless. Construction employment

showed warmer-weather growth as expected, up 400 jobs. Leisure and hospitality employment increased by 200 jobs as this industry usually picks up seasonally in the warmer months as well. Annually, there are a net total of 900 more jobs in Racine county. Retail trade and professional and

business services, combined, contributed 700 of these jobs. Government employment is also showing growth, up 300 jobs annually. Manufacturing employment shows nearly 100 more jobs than last April's figures and is the first annual increase for this industry (using the NAICS industry coding transition) since December 1999.

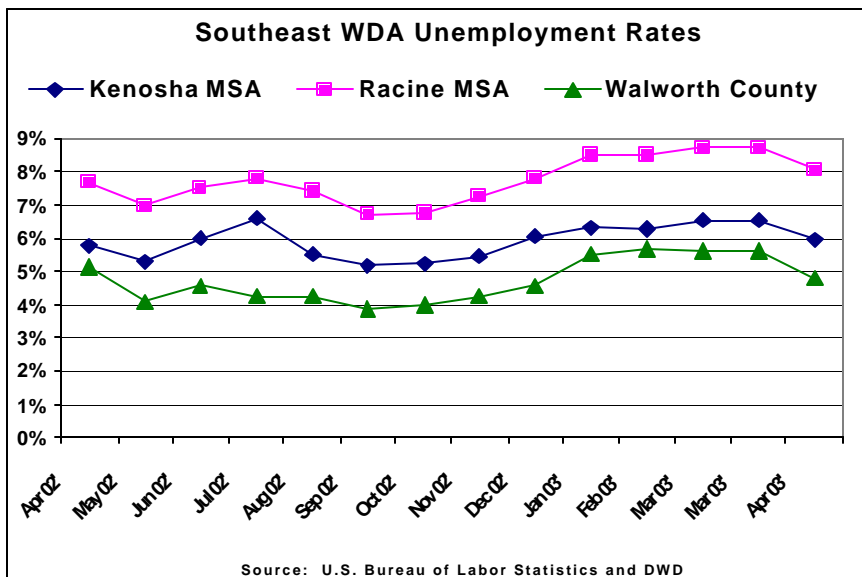
Walworth County's unemployment rate registered a clip of 4.8 percent in April. April's rate is a decrease from the previous month by eight-tenths of a percent point and is four-tenths of a point lower than the figure from April 2002. Walworth's labor force figures show 390 more residents employed and 460 fewer unemployed since March. Though the rate for April is higher than it has been in April of recent years, (excluding April 2002) the seasonal decrease is right in line with expectations for April as the labor force robustly gained in the number of people working.

Spring is the time of year when Walworth County becomes one of the fastest job-growing counties in the state, all due to the changing of the seasons. Walworth added a net 1.8 percent more jobs in this single month, alone, (+700 jobs) and despite being the smallest of the regional counties, it out gained both Kenosha and Racine Counties. Construction employment added the most jobs (+200 jobs), which is typical for this month and not surprising given the demand for home building and road repair, etc, though construction employment growth has slowed this year to a degree. Leisure and hospitality; and information, professional and business services show increases of 200 and 300 jobs, respectively. These two industries will continue to fuel job growth in the coming months, as establishments in food and accommodation services as well as personnel-supply agencies will look to hire more employees in the summer months.

Walworth's annual industry perspective is quite different from the monthly perspective as Walworth County shows a net job deficit compared to April 2002. The trade industries and the business services seem not to have hired as strongly as they did a year ago. And it would be premature to describe this as slump as one month's worth of data do not a bad tourist season make. Education and health services and leisure and hospitality employment have maintained strength in the county.

The **Kenosha MSA** unemployment rate dropped to 5.9 percent; down six-tenths of a point from March. It is one-tenth of a point higher than last April's figure.

Kenosha industry data show a 600 jobs increase mainly distributed among retail trade and construction. Education services employment dipped slightly due to the brief spring break in April. The remaining industries' data were flat or changed only slightly. The data is also restrained annually as there is no net growth to report overall. Manufacturing and leisure and hospitality show the larger deficits while retail trade showed the largest increase (almost 11 percent higher since last April). Leisure and hospitality hiring seems to be down slightly over the year. Interestingly, retail trade has remained fairly strong here and has been weak in other parts of the state and nation.



April 2003	Wisconsin	Kenosha County/MSA	Racine County/MSA	Walworth County	Southeast WDA	City of Kenosha	City of Racine
Civilian Labor Force*	3,074,457	83,115	94,528	54,210	231,853	49,161	39,738
Persons Employed	2,896,644	78,190	86,883	51,615	216,688	45,721	34,725
Persons Unemployed	177,813	4,925	7,645	2,595	15,165	3,440	5,013
Unemployment Rate	5.8%	5.9%	8.1%	4.8%	6.5%	7.0%	12.6%
Total jobs of all non-farm industries** (thousands)	2,765.1	53.3	79.4	40.7	173.4		
Goods Producing Jobs	627.2	12.6	23.7	10.2	46.5		
Service Producing Jobs	2,137.9	40.7	55.7	30.5	126.9		
Construction, Mining and Natural Resources	112.6	2.1	3.7	1.6	7.4		
All Manufacturing	514.6	10.5	20.0	8.5	39.0		
Total Trade	425.0	9.1	12.5	4.8	26.4		
Wholesale Trade	115.0	1.9	3.0	xx	xx		
Retail Trade	310.0	7.2	9.5	xx	xx		
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	104.6	1.6	1.8	1.2	4.6		
Financial Activities	155.7	1.6	2.5	1.0	5.1		
Education and Health Services	362.5	7.1	10.1	4.1	21.3		
Leisure & Hospitality	232.7	5.7	6.0	7.1	18.8		
Information, Professional and Business Services, Other Services	430.0	6.2	12.0	4.6	22.8		
Information	50.8	0.4	0.7	xx	xx		
Professional and Business Services	239.6	3.1	6.6	xx	xx		
Other Services	139.6	2.7	4.7	xx	xx		
All Government	427.4	9.4	10.8	7.7	27.9		
Change from March 2003							
Civilian Labor Force*	-7,780	180	-1,010	-70	-900	80	-340
Persons Employed	14,390	690	-290	390	790	400	-120
Persons Unemployed	-22,170	-510	-720	-460	-1,690	-330	-220
Unemployment Rate	-0.7%	-0.6%	-0.7%	-0.8%	-0.7%	-0.7%	-0.5%
Total jobs of all non-farm industries** (thousands)	25.5	0.6	0.6	0.7	1.9		
Goods Producing Jobs	8.9	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.7		
Service Producing Jobs	16.6	0.4	0.3	0.5	1.2		
Construction, Mining and Natural Resources	10.0	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.8		
All Manufacturing	-1.1	0.0	-0.1	0.0	-0.1		
Total Trade	2.6	0.5	0.0	-0.1	0.4		
Wholesale Trade	0.0	0.0	0.0	xx	xx		
Retail Trade	2.6	0.5	0.0	xx	xx		
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Financial Activities	2.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Education and Health Services	-0.6	-0.4	-0.1	0.1	-0.4		
Leisure & Hospitality	6.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.5		
Information, Professional and Business Services, Other Services	4.3	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.3		
Information	0.3	0.0	0.0	xx	xx		
Professional and Business Services	4.1	0.0	0.1	xx	xx		
Other Services	-0.1	0.0	-0.1	xx	xx		
All Government	1.5	0.2	0.2	-0.1	0.3		
Change from April 2002							
Civilian Labor Force*	62,660	1,540	2,900	-210	4,230	870	1,540
Persons Employed	63,370	1,340	2,310	0	3,650	780	920
Persons Unemployed	-710	200	590	-210	580	90	620
Unemployment Rate	-0.1%	0.1%	0.4%	-0.4%	0.1%	0.0%	1.1%
Total jobs of all non-farm industries** (thousands)	-0.8	0.0	0.9	-0.7	0.1		
Goods Producing Jobs	-19.4	-0.8	0.2	-0.2	-0.8		
Service Producing Jobs	18.6	0.7	0.7	-0.5	0.9		
Construction, Mining and Natural Resources	-8.9	-0.1	0.0	-0.2	-0.3		
All Manufacturing	-10.6	-0.7	0.1	0.0	-0.6		
Total Trade	0.5	0.6	0.2	-0.5	0.3		
Wholesale Trade	1.2	-0.1	-0.1	xx	xx		
Retail Trade	-0.7	0.7	0.3	xx	xx		
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	0.1	0.0	-0.1	0.0	-0.1		
Financial Activities	3.4	0.0	0.0	-0.1	-0.2		
Education and Health Services	6.9	0.1	0.0	0.4	0.5		
Leisure & Hospitality	1.3	-0.3	-0.1	0.3	-0.1		
Information, Professional and Business Services, Other Services	7.3	0.1	0.4	-0.3	0.1		
Information	-0.2	0.0	-0.1	xx	xx		
Professional and Business Services	-0.2	0.0	0.4	xx	xx		
Other Services	7.7	0.1	0.0	xx	xx		
All Government	-0.9	0.4	0.3	-0.3	0.3		

* Labor force figures are **not** seasonally adjusted and are commonly revised. Figures from "place of residence" survey from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Local Area Unemployment Statistics program. **Figures based upon "place of employment" survey from the BLS, Non-Farm Wage and Salary estimates. Industry employment figures are in thousands and are rounded. "XX" indicates that data is suppressed and has been aggregated with other industries. **Month and year ago change figures are rounded and may not sum to total**

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